



NEWS

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

L.A. County Board of Supervisors, 2nd District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas Announces Selection of Sylvia Drew Ivie as Chief of Staff

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to serve the 2.5 million-plus residents of the Second Supervisorial District***

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas has announced the selection of administrator and national health specialist and advocate, Sylvia Drew Ivie, J.D., to serve as his Chief of Staff. The selection is his first major announcement about the team he is developing to serve the 2.5 million-plus residents of the Second District.

"Sylvia possesses the right combination of administrative skills and policy insight, which compliments her distinct background in healthcare and reputation as a respected community leader and attorney," stated Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. "She will play a major role in supporting my priorities in office, including healthcare, job creation, and public safety. More specifically, I will rely heavily on her experience to re-open the Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Center." Ms. Drew Ivie was introduced to staff on Friday, where she officially assumed her new responsibilities.

Currently a consultant for The California Endowment, advising in various capacities and serving as the former Project Director of the Steering Committee on the Future of the King Drew Medical Center, Ms. Drew Ivie brings much-needed experience to the Second District in building successful models for local healthcare delivery.

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Until February, 2005, Ms. Drew Ivie was Executive Director of the T.H.E. (To Help Everyone) Clinic, a primary health care clinic that provides health services to minority and immigrant women and families in South Central and Southwest Los Angeles. Her 100-member staff successfully served patients in ten languages.

Her additional legal experiences include serving as Deputy City Attorney for the City of Los Angeles, practicing poverty and civil rights law for the National Health Law Program in Los Angeles, Assistant Counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in New York, and the Director of the U.S. Office for Civil Rights in the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C. during the Carter administration.

Ms. Drew Ivie has served as a member of the California Women's Health Advisory Council, the Presidential Commission on Quality Health Care and Consumer Protection, and the Kaiser Family Foundation Commission on the Future of Medicaid and the Uninsured. She was recently appointed to the Centers for Disease Control Blue Ribbon Panel on evaluating efforts to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in health care.

Through participation with the Kaiser Family Foundation Commission on the Future of Medicaid and the Uninsured, President Clinton's Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry and the California Endowment, Ms. Ivie has continued to work on health policy analysis and reform.

A graduate of Vassar College with a degree in political science and a law degree from Howard University School of Law, Ms. Drew Ivie is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the 1994 Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation's Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights.

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